sioner within the last 2 years of his service.

For administrative reasons, however, and officer can be transferred at any time to any place in India. On compassionate grounds and/or in public interest an officer may be allowed to continue at the same station beyond the prescribed periods.

14 Assistant Commissioners and 8 ITOs (Group-A) were due for transfer from Delhi on stay basis. Out of these transfers were ordered only in 7 cases of Asstt. Commissioners and 2 ITOs (Group-A). 4 Assistant Commissioners have already been relieved and in remaining cases of the requests of officers for further retention are under consideration.

Use of gas by the army in their Golden Temple operation

1497. DR. MAHABIR PRASAD:
SHRI SUSHIL CHAND MOHUNTA:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the army used gas in their operation in Golden Temple to flush out the extremists; and

(b) if so, what were the reasons for taking this measure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) Security used a non-lethal gas, similar to teargas used by the police for riot control in the Northern Wing of Parikarma of the Golden Temple and in the general area of Akal Takhat to flush out terrorists.

(b) The gas was used to minimise loss of life and damage to the buildings.

Army deserters

1498. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of soldiers who deserted the Army during the last three years, year-wise; and

(b) what steps have been taken by Government to contain unrest in army?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) The information is of a classified nature and cannot be divulged in public interest.

(b) There has been no unrest as such in the Army. However, facts of indiscipline which occurred in the resent past in few of the units due to false propaganda were immediately brought under control. Steps are being taken to prevent recurrence of such cases of indiscipline.

Exports of Engineering Goods

1499. SHRI NARENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a computerised engineering data system to promote exports of engineering goods; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and how it would help promote export of these goods to different countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR):

(a) and (b) The Government is considering a proposals to computerise data pertaining to various imports and exports with a view to evolving strategies for more effective management of international trade and, in this context, it is considering ways and means to meet the requirements of the engineering sector on a priority basis.

Setting up of a small group consisting of representatives of trade and industry for boosting trade

1500. SHRI NARENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up a small group consisting of representatives of trade and industry to continuously interact with Government officials on trade policy;

(b) if so, what is its precise constitution and functions; and

(c) in what way the deliberations of the group is likely to influence the import, export, and industrial policies of Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Decline of Shrimp exports to U.S.A.

1501. SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has lost a sizeable share of US Shrimp market from 1979 onwards;

(b) if so, what has been the extent of shrimp exports to the United States of America during each of the years from 1979 onwards; and

(c) what are the reasons for the decline of shrimp exports to U.S.A.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) to (c) Shrimp exports to USA have suffered setbacks since 1979 on account of blacklisting of Indian shrimp by USFDA as well as on account of stagnation in shrimp production. The export figures from 1979 onwards are given below:

Year	Quantity	Value
	(In tonnes)	(In Rs. lakhs)
1979	13,118	3,578
1980	6,615	1,748
1981	8,751	2,789
1982	11,257	3,997
1983	12,471	4,505

Rise in the foreign assets of Reserve Bank of India

1502. SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the foreign assets of the Reserve Bank of India have risen by Rs. 905.58 crores during the current calendar year upto May 1984;

(b) at what level the assets stood as on the 31st December, 1983, 18th May, 1984 and what are the latest figures in this regard; and

(c) what specific steps have been taken during the current calendar year to increase the foreign assets with the Reserve Bank?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKERJEE): (a) and (b) The foreign assets of the Reserve Bank of India (excluding Gold and Special Drawing Rights) had risen by Rs. 953.25 crores during the period 1st January to 31st May, 1984. The level of assets as on 31st December, 1983, 18th May, 1984 and 27th July, 1984 were as follows:—

Date	Amount (Rs. Crores)
31.12.1983	4554.98
18.5.1984	5460.56
27.7.1984	5900.87

(c) The level of reserves is continuously kept under review with a view to ensuring that the country's commitments with regard to debt service and our requirements of goods and services are met.

IDA-VII Scheme

1503. SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether the World Bank has expressed disappointment at the inadequate size of the IDA-VII Scheme; and

(b) what are the details of the observations made by the World Bank in this regard and how far the aid from the World Bank under the IDA-VII Scheme to India is likely to be affected?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Government has seen statements of World Bank officials expres-